

**SUMMER UI BENEFITS FOR  
SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF:  
EVIDENCE FROM ILLINOIS AND WHAT IT  
MIGHT MEAN FOR MINNESOTA IN HF 20**

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Minnesota Legislature ♦ Workforce Development Finance and Policy  
Committee

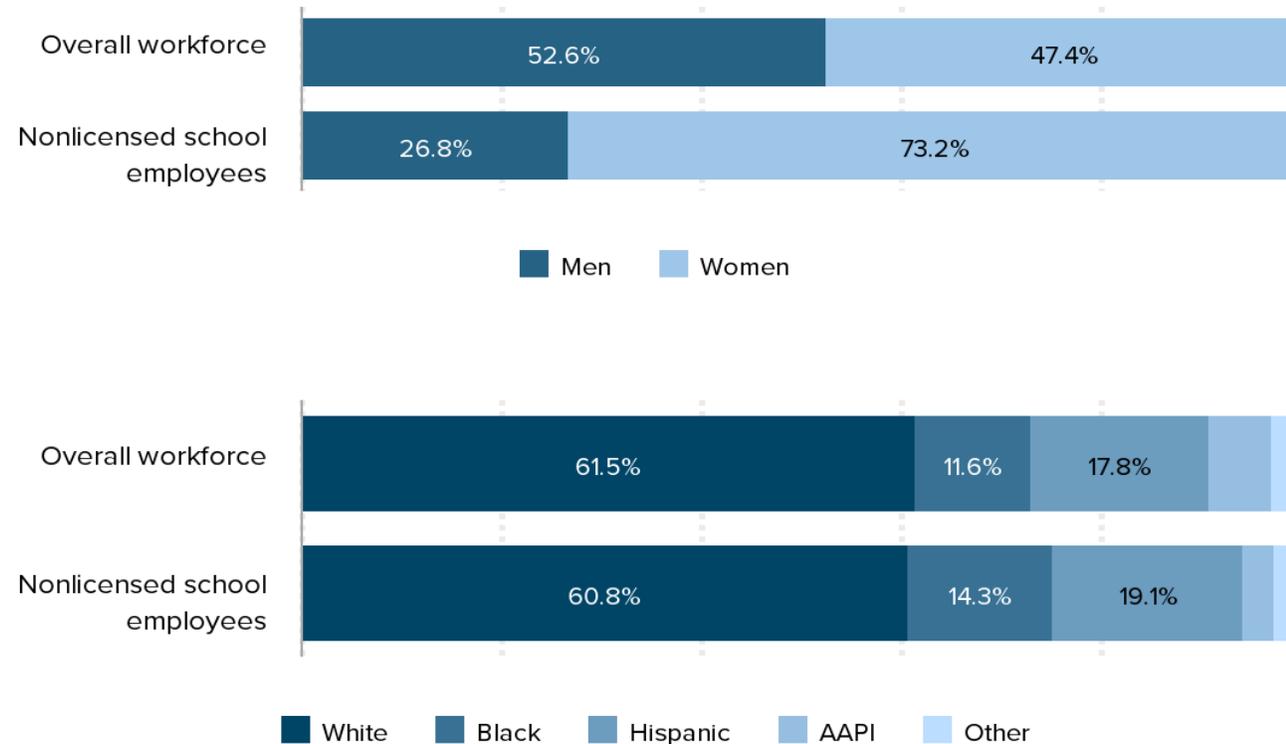
Posted May 12, 2021 at 3:01 pm by **Julia Wolfe** and **Dave Kamper**

## **Illinois extended unemployment benefits to school workers in the summer, and Minnesota should follow suit**

<https://www.epi.org/blog/illinois-extended-unemployment-benefits-to-school-workers-in-the-summer-and-minnesota-should-follow/>

# WHO ARE SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF?

Women, Black, and Hispanic workers are disproportionately represented in nonlicensed education occupations

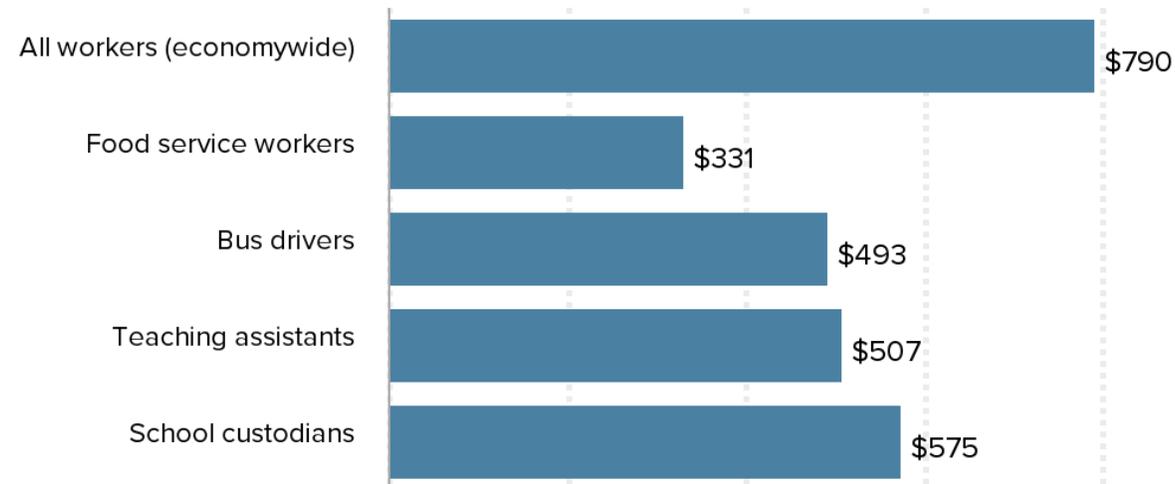


Source: EPI analysis of 2019 ACS microdata.

# WHO ARE SCHOOL SUPPORT STAFF?

## Education support staff are paid very low wages

Weekly median wages of all workers and K–12 public education support workers



**Notes:** Weekly wages in 2020 dollars.

**Source:** EPI analysis of 2014–2019 pooled Current Population Survey microdata.

Source: Dave Cooper and Sebastian Martinez Hickey, "Raising Pay in Public K-12 Schools Is Critical to Solving Staffing Shortages" <https://www.epi.org/publication/solving-k-12-staffing-shortages/>

# CALCULATING THE EFFECTS OF SUMMER UI FOR NONLICENSED SCHOOL STAFF

- **Recipiency** - *MN pre-pandemic rate was 39-45%*
- **Costs / Benefits**

*[reminder: in MN, school districts directly reimburse UI system for actual costs, so there is no overall impact on the UI Trust Fund]*

# EVIDENCE FROM ILLINOIS:

- Enacted summer UI for school support staff in 2020
- Approximately **11% of the workforce** used this benefit – the recipiency rate (adjusted for job losses in 2020)



# If that pattern is followed in Minnesota:



- Approximately 62,375 nonlicensed school staff in Minnesota K-12 institutions
- We estimate **75,753 weeks** of unemployment would be claimed in Minnesota by approximately 6800 employees
- UI compensation is 50% of average weekly earnings
- Average pay is \$738, 11 weeks of benefits over the summer would be **\$4,058**

# NET COSTS

- \$738 average weekly wages *times* 50% benefit *times* 75,753 total weeks claimed = ~\$28,000,000
- Total MN school district fund balances (per MDE data) at end of 2020 was \$2,643,996,300
- **Total amount spent on UI for K-12 nonlicensed staff in the summer would amount to ~1.1% of school districts' total reserves.**

# THANK YOU!

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